

COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

MR W. M. CLENDINNEN,

FOR THE YEAR 1897.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SANITARY AUTHORITY,




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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1897.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF COSELEY
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Third Annual Report
VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 828, comprising 400 males and 428 females; being a decrease of 10 as compared with last year.

Taking the population at 22,000, this gives an annual birth-rate of 37·6 per thousand.

TABLE SHOWING BIRTH-RATE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

1888	...	31·8		1893	...	37·5
1889	...	38·0		1894	...	38·5
1890	...	37·3		1895	...	35·68
1891	...	41·13		1896	...	38·0
1892	...	38·0		1897	...	37·6

This shows the mean birth-rate for the past 10 years to be 37·3—a rate slightly in excess of the general rate of the county, and much higher than that of England and Wales. The number of persons born in the district during the past ten years is very nearly double the number of deaths. The population, however, has not increased. It is to be regretted that the development of new industries has not taken place to prevent this.

The deaths registered were 408, comprising 205 males and 203 females; being an increase of 14 as compared with last year, and giving a death-rate of 18·5 per thousand.

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE EACH MONTH.

Months.	Deaths.	Rate.	Months.	Deaths.	Rate.
January, 4 weeks..	48...	28·3	July, 4 weeks...	25...	14·7
February, 4 „	...47...	27·7	August, 4 „	...25...	14·7
March, 5 „	...47...	22·2	September 5 „	...25...	11·8
April, 4 „	...24..	14·18	October, 4 „	...21...	12·4
May, 4 „	...29..	17·13	November 4 „	...33...	19·5
June, 5 „	...32..	15·18	December 5 „	...52...	24·0

The deaths under 5 years were 213; those above 65, 84.

TABLE SHOWING THE AGES AT WHICH THE 408 DEATHS TOOK PLACE.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	139
1 „ and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	74
5 years	„	15 „	...	...	9
15 „	„	25 „	...	...	20
25 „	„	65 „	...	...	82
65 „ and upwards	...	...	...	...	84

TABLE SHOWING DEATH-RATE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

1888	...	16·6	1893	...	21·05
1889	...	20·7	1894	...	14·2
1890	...	19·4	1895	...	22·63
1891	...	22·6	1896	...	17·9
1892	...	18·22	1897	...	18·5

This shows the mean death-rate for the past 10 years to be 19·18 per thousand,

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The following table shows the mortality amongst children under one year and the proportion per 1,000 births for the last five years.

Years.	Deaths under 1 year.		Mortality per 1,000 Births.	
1897	...	139	...	167
1896	...	138	...	164
1895	...	174	...	215
1894	...	113	...	133
1893	...	146	...	176

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of deaths and death-rate from these diseases during the past five years. There were 48 deaths in 1897, representing a zymotic death-rate of 2·18 per 1,000.

Diseases	1897		1896		1895		1894		1893	
Smallpox	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	0
Measles	...	6	...	3	...	60	...	1	...	3
Scarlet Fever...	...	9	...	26	...	8	...	0	...	3
Diphtheria	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1
Croup	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	14	...	7	...	16	...	11	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	5
Diarrhœa	...	14	...	10	...	19	...	7	...	22
Erysipelas	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	0
Puerperal Fever	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	2
Totals	...	48	...	52	...	105	...	28	...	38
Rate per 1,000	...	2·18	...	2·36	...	4·77	...	1·27	...	1·7

From a consideration of the above tables it will be seen that the year has been an average one as regards mortality—zymotic, general, and infantile.

The birth-rate is also an average one. Thus the mean birth-rate for the past 10 years is 37·3 per 1,000, and this year's rate 37·6.

The mean death-rate for the same period is 19·18, and this year's rate 18·5 per 1,000.

The mean infantile mortality for the past five years is 171 per 1,000 births, the corresponding figure for 1897 being 167.

Again, the mean zymotic death-rate for the past five years amounts to 2·45 per 1,000, the deaths in 1897 from these diseases showing a rate slightly lower—2·18 per 1,000—and corresponding exactly with the figure for England and Wales for 1896.

A reduction in infantile mortality should be striven for as the most potent means of lowering our death-rate. More than one-third of the total number of deaths are in infants under one year of age, and twice as many children die in the first year of life as in the four years following. As the spread of knowledge, amongst the poorer classes, of the treatment of infants must help greatly in this direction, I would suggest that your Council should take steps to have a course of Free Health Lectures given in the district.

In addition to efforts in this direction, the restriction of the spread of epidemics by the provision of an Isolation Hospital (which is sorely needed) will also tend to bring the death-rate to a more satisfactory level.

SMALLPOX.

This disease was entirely absent from the district throughout the year.

MEASLES.

Since the epidemic of 1895, which attacked almost every susceptible child, and caused 60 deaths, very few cases of this disease occurred until the latter half of the year. A few cases were noticed as early as July in the Ettingshall district, but it was not until the middle of October that cases occurred in epidemic numbers, when the attendance of the Lanesfield Board Schools was seriously affected.

In a special report on 4th November I recommended closure of these schools for a fortnight, as cases had occurred in all parts of the scattered district from which the children came. This was done, and prior to re-opening, the schools were disinfected. The result was gratifying, the school re-opening with a very fair attendance.

Owing to the prevalence of the same disease in all parts of the district of the Broad Lanes Board Schools, causing the absence of one-third of the scholars, they were closed on my recommendation for a fortnight on November 24th.

During December, the disease became widely prevalent in other parts of the district.

It is of a milder type than the epidemic of 1895. Six deaths resulted.

It must be borne in mind, however, that many of those who survive the immediate effects, suffer for indefinite periods from the various sequelae which this disease induces. The prevailing impression that an attack of measles is a trivial matter is responsible for many fatal results. In many instances a medical man is only called in when lung complications have arisen, which could have been prevented, were proper precautions observed. The disappearance of the rash is often regarded as a sign that all danger is over; such being far from the case. If careful nursing, in healthy surroundings, could always be secured, many lives would be saved which are now lost.

SCARLET FEVER.

Seventy-seven cases of this disease were notified during the year: Twenty-one in the first quarter, nine in the second, six in the third, and forty-one in the last three months. Nine cases ended fatally: One death occurring in January, two in March, one in October, three in November, and two in December. Sixty houses were infected by this disease. The precautions taken to prevent its spread were confined to ordering children from infected houses to be kept from school, the head masters being informed of the occurrence of infectious disease in the homes of their scholars. When it has appeared advisable, I have visited particular schools, and by the courtesy of the authorities, have examined any children who presented any suspicions of the disease. In one or two instances children from a whole row or isolated block of houses have been excluded with apparently beneficial results. These measures, however, will never suffice to reduce this disease to the limit we may hope for, when your own and neighbouring authorities have provided isolation hospitals.

DIPHTHERIA.

The increase in this disease noticed in 1896, when 17 cases were notified, compared with 14 in the previous four years, is still observable, 15 cases being recorded this year. One death resulted. Three cases occurred in one house in Meadow Lane. Owing to the insanitary conditions of the house and its surroundings, its closure was ordered, and it has since been demolished. Three other cases were reported from one house at Millfields. The remedy of insanitary conditions near the house, which I had previously reported on,

has been undertaken. The closet and brewhouse adjoin each other, and are within three or four feet of the back door, and the air space round this and adjoining houses is insufficient.

The erection of houses on insanitary sites has been found to favour the occurrence of this disease, and in a district like this, care should be taken that precautions are observed in this respect.

CROUP.

Four cases were notified occurring in two houses.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Fourteen deaths resulted from this disease, all under five years of age.

ERYSIPELAS.

Fifteen cases were notified, but no death occurred.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The same number of cases of this disease were notified as last year, viz., nine, and two deaths resulted. Eight houses were infected. There seemed to be no connection between the cases, with the exception of two which occurred in one house, the second person attacked having been occupied in nursing the first. With regard to these two cases, I found the yard dirty and ill-paved, with slop water lying about; the surface water escaping by running under a large uncovered ashpit into a foul open drain. As long as such conditions as these exist, the occurrence of sporadic cases of this disease is inevitable, but, with increased attention to such evils, and a universal supply of pure water, together with the isolation of any cases which may arise, it should be possible to almost entirely drive this disease from the district.

DIARRHŒA.

Fourteen deaths, all under five years of age, are registered as being due to this disease, and are scattered uniformly throughout the year.

PHTHISIS.

The high altitude of this district tends favourably to limit the ravages of this disease, and ten deaths only resulted from it during the year, compared with 18 in 1896. Damp dwellings, bad ventilation, and over-crowding are all factors in the

production of this disease, which is now generally regarded to be, to a great extent, preventable.

INFLUENZA.

During the last quarter of the year, this disease has been very prevalent, and although only one death has been registered as due to it, it has occasioned a great deal of suffering, and in many cases, recovery has been very slow. In some cases severe gastro-intestinal disturbance occurred.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED.

The Coroner conducted an enquiry into the cause of death in 15 instances. Four deaths are returned as uncertified, as follows:—One attributed to asthma and heart disease, 56 years of age; one premature birth, aged 12 hours; one convulsions, aged two months; and one “Croup,” aged six years.

WATER.

I am glad to say that further action has been taken in this matter during the year, and 106 houses have been connected with the public supply. I regret, however, to have to record, notwithstanding the efforts this council have made, that portions of Cinder Hill and Woodcross are still unsupplied with pure water. I quote as follows from my December report:—“A case of Enteric Fever was notified from 3, Johnson’s Row, Cinderhill. As the Council are well aware, there is no proper water supply for that locality. A cistern containing rain-water is the only supply for this row of 15 houses. The people at this house have been in the habit of obtaining drinking water from a pump some distance off. Until “tap” water is supplied, the inhabitants should make a practice of invariably boiling all the water they consume”

VACCINATION.

The following return, which the Vaccination Officer has been good enough to supply, deals with the children born in the whole parish of Sedgley in 1896.

Births registered	...	...	...	1,452
Successfully Vaccinated	...	...	...	986
Dead, Unvaccinated	...	...	...	147
Insusceptible	...	...	...	7
Postponed	...	...	...	25
Unaccounted for	...	...	...	287

I am sorry to say that much of the vaccination performed in this district is inefficient.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT.

The certificates received under this Act number 122, the reduction, as compared with last year, being due to the lessened prevalence of scarlatina.

The certificates are distributed as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	77
Enteric „	...	...	...	9
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	15
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	15

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

As I mentioned in last year's Report, there are many dilapidated and unhealthy houses in the district, with which it is very difficult to deal; but the matter must be faced, and dealt with, mostly in a gradual manner. This year we have closed 21 houses, which were unfit for human habitation. Overcrowding is very prevalent and still more difficult to deal with, since the abatement of this nuisance in one place is speedily followed by its appearance in another.

The fact of the matter is that the erection of new dwellings is required, the present supply not being equal to the demand, especially in the centre of the district. This must also be remembered as a factor which effectually prevents any increase taking place in the population.

EXCREMENT AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Following on my remarks on this subject last year, much work has been done, and your Inspector has served 103 notices during the year calling upon owners to remedy defects in closets and ashpits, which have been attended to. This work, however, will have to be persistently followed up, and I would again point out that every house should be provided with ashpit accommodation, and that all ashpits should be covered and properly ventilated. The work of removal has been carried out, as before, by the Council, but a more frequent and systematic removal is required.

When new Bye-laws are completed, details of structure and position of closets and ashpits should be dealt with.

INSPECTION.

During the year I made a detailed inspection of portions of Bradley, and reported on insanitary properties in Hall Green Street, Allen's Row, and Wooton Square, due to defective roofs, absence of eaves-spouting, neglect of whitewashing, and inefficient ventilation of some of the houses. Some of these houses were let separately, back and front, and I recommended that the owners be advised that this would not be allowed to be continued in future. The owners, in some cases, were poor, and derived little money from their property. Many of the defects have, however, been remedied, and some of the houses which were past repair, or which the owners neglected to repair, have been closed; and some other properties, which had been allowed to fall into dilapidation, are being made habitable.

Your Council have also decided to lay down new channelling, where required, in this locality, and I am glad that channelling is being more generally extended throughout the district. As long as we have surface drainage too much attention cannot be paid to this subject, and the frequent cleansing of the channels is of great importance.

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have been periodically visited and found satisfactory.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

Inspection of these premises has resulted in 18 formal notices for more frequent limewashing, which have been complied with. Regulations should be framed for the better control of these premises.

I append the tables required by the Local Government Board, also one supplied by the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. M. CLENDINNEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

COSELEY,

29th January, 1898.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of
Nuisance's Department during the year 1897, in the
Urban Sanitary District of Coseley.

		Inspections and Observations made.		Formal Notices by Authority.	Nui- sances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling- houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions	...	156	156	156
	Structural Defects	...	53	53	53
	Overcrowding	...	26	26	26
	Unfit for Habitation	...	21	21 closed	21
	Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...
	Dairies and Milkshops	...	32	found satisfactory	...
	Cowsheds	...	151	18	18
	Bakehouses	...	105	2	2
	Slaughter-houses...	...	157	2	2
	Canal Boats	...	173	2	2
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies	...	129	103	103
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	34	...	...
	Water Closets	...	...	...	...
	Defective Traps	...	5	5	5
	No Disconnection	...	...	...	...
	Other Faults	...	17	17	17
	Water Supply (S. S. W. Co., 56; Bilston Com- missioners, 50)	...	106	...	...
	Pigsties	...	6	6	6
	Animals improperly kept	...	8	8	8
	Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances	...	1	1	1
	Other Nuisances...	...	22	22	22
	Totals	...	1184	424	424
	Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	1
	Samples of Food taken for Analysis...	...	...	...	...
	" " found Adulterated...	...	...	...	...
	" of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	..	7
	" " Condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	7

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	...
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	50
Schools " " "	6
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease ... ... ... ...	...
Convictions " " "	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ... ... ... ... ...	...
Convictions " " "	...

Signed,

JOHN MILLS,

Inspector of Nuisances.

January 13th, 1898.

Annual Report of Medical Officers

URBAN SANITARY

(A) Deaths Registered during the Year 1897, classified according to the population of such Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate Localities.	DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM				
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.		1	2	3	4
									Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous
								Under 5		2	1	
COSELEY ...	150	48	26	4	6	33	33	5 upwds.				
								Under 5		4		
BRIERLY ...	133	47	25	3	10	27	21	5 upwds				
								Under 5		3		
ETTINGSHALL	106	38	18	2	3	18	27	5 upwds.				
								Under 5				
WOODSETTON	19	6	5		1	4	3	5 upwds.				
								Under 5				
								5 upwds.				
								Under 5				
								5 upwds				
TOTALS	408	139	74	9	20	82	84	Under 5		9	1	
								5 upwds.				

POPULATION.—Census, 1891 : Coseley, 6,988 ; Brierly, 6,276 ; Ettingshall, 6,276 ; Woodsetton, 6,276 ; TOTALS, 25,820.
REGISTERED BIRTHS : 1,897.

1 Officer of Health, 1897.

DISTRICT OF COSELEY.

According to Diseases, Ages, and Localities ; showing also the Births therein during the year.

ED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
FEVERS.																
Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Influenza.	
							4	1			21	5		39	1	
1										3	19	11		42		
						2	8	5			14	1		38		
										5	12	5		39		
						3	2	5			14			29		
1			2						1	1	20	1		24		
						1		3			1			6		
										1	2			5		
						6	14	14			50	6		112	1	
2			2						1	10	53	17		110		

391 ; Woodsetton, 2,244 ; total, 21 899. Estimated to middle of 1897, 22,000.
400 ; Females, 428 ; total, 828.

Signed, W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.O.H.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1897.

Urban Sanitary District of Coseley.

(B) New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1897, enumerating the Number of Houses Infected, the Total Number of Deaths, also the Number of Cases Treated and the Deaths that occurred in Infectious Hospitals.

	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
Houses infected.....		60	8	2		8			2		15		
Total cases reported among persons belonging to District...		77	15	4		9			2		15		
Total deaths reported among persons belonging to District..	Under 5 5 & upds.	9	1									6	14
Cases treated in Hospital among persons belonging to District	Under 5 5 & upds.								2				
Deaths occurring in Hospital among persons belonging to District	Under 5 5 & upds.												

Is "Notification of Infectious Diseases" Compulsory in the District? Yes. Since when? March 1st, 1892.
Is Measles included among the Diseases notified? No. Is Whooping Cough among the Diseases notified? No.
Is an Isolation Hospital available for the District? No. Area of District in acres, 3,973.

Signed, W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.O.H.

